1	2	3	4	5
Haryana	-	-	-	26, 606
Rajasthan	-	-	-	5,703
TOTAL	72,682	2,30,000	12, 13,359	25,06,683

Speeding of research services

3036. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of research services for farmers in the country;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any steps to speed up research services;

(c) if so the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Technologies related to crop production, crop protection, livestock production and management, and fishery are developed by the National Agricultural Research System (NARS), consisting of the research institutes of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), and State Agricultural Universities. The technologies developed are disseminated by the main extension system operated by the State development department, In order to speed up research services to the farmers, the ICAR has created a network of 538 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the country, aiming at technology assessment refinement and demonstration of technology/products and its dissemination through training of farmers and extension personnel.

Plantation of jatropha

3037. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several private players have launched serious pilot projects for plantation of jatropha but at Government level there is still no sign of a comprehensive policy initiative to examine the

techno-economic viability and feasibility of large scale production of feed stock based on jatropha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The Committee on Development of Bio-fuels set up by Planning Commission in July, 2002, *inter-alia*, examined the techno-economic viability and feasibility of large scale production of feed stock based on Jatropha. Based on the report of the Committee on Development of Bio-fuels submitted to Planning Commission in April, 2003, a National Mission on Bio-diesel has been envisaged. With a view to demonstrating the commercial vibility of Jatropha & Karanj plantations as inputs for production of bio-diesel, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Demonstration Programme of National Mission of Bio-diesel has been formulated by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development.

Committee for welfare of farmers

3038. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Committee to look into the problems of farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of issues to be considered by the said Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir, However, the Government set up in February, 2004 a National Commission on Farmers to examine and recommend policies, programmes and measures on various issue confronting Indian farmers and to suggest appropriate interventions for improving the economic viability and sustainability of diversified agriculture including horticulture, livestock, dairy and fisheries. The Commission was reconstituted in November, 2004 and assigned revised terms of reference mentioned below:—

> Work out a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal on universal food security, over time.
>
> Propose methods of enhancing the productivity, stability and sustainbility of the major farming systems of the country, based